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9 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, Re Sensitive Projects

25X1

1. This afternoon [redacted] and I discussed with Mr. Woodruff the problem of briefing Senator Allen J. Ellender. I said I told the Director of Woodruff's concern that Ellender be briefed as soon as possible, particularly in view of Woodruff's uncomfortable position of being aware of certain matters which the Chairman had not been cut in on. I also told Woodruff that I had just extended, for a second time, the Director's invitation to set up a briefing for Ellender at any time convenient to him. I noted that a couple of the sensitive projects which Woodruff was concerned about also involved the Defense Department, and asked Woodruff whether the Defense Department might be briefing the Senator on these matters. I said if this was the case we wanted to be careful not to cross any wires. Woodruff said as far as he was concerned the Agency had carried the ball on past congressional briefings, and it had not occurred to him that DOD would take over at this stage. Regarding the best timing for a briefing for the Senator, Woodruff said that if he remained in town during the upcoming recess, 10 - 22 February, this might be the best time to catch him since thereafter he would be extremely busy. I told Woodruff we much prefer to have Senator Milton Young and Woodruff present at such a briefing and wondered whether they would be available during this time period. Woodruff said whether Young was available or not he thought it important that we get on with the briefing, especially about the sensitive projects, since if Ellender heard about them later we might be in real trouble.

2. Woodruff asked how we plan to handle the briefings, and I said I thought we would first want to give the Senator a general introductory briefing, perhaps with the participation of the senior deputies, before taking up the sensitive projects which concerned us. Woodruff

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said this would be all right, but he thought it would be well for us to let the Senator know at least of the existence of the sensitive projects. I fully agreed, remarking that the next time I saw the Senator I would tell him there were a couple of sensitive projects we wanted to brief him on at his convenience and I said the Director would probably do the same thing. I said if the Senator came out for a briefing at Headquarters, the Director might call him out at the outset to mention these projects, even before introducing the general briefing, so that the Senator would at least be forewarned that the briefing on the sensitive projects was in the offing. 25X1

[redacted]

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